All Heads of Institutions  
Affiliated to CBSE

Subject: Immediate discontinuation of use of specimens of plants/animals listed in any schedule of Wildlife Protection Act,1972 and live animals as exhibits in schools.

Dear Principal

Kindly refer to the CBSE circular no. 72/10 dated November 9, 2010 and circular No.19/2012 dated May 22, 2012 wherein the CBSE had instructed its affiliated schools to discontinue the use of specimens of rare/threatened plants and animals kept in the science laboratory or classrooms for teaching/learning processes.

It is to again reiterate that under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, no school can have specimens of any plants or animals listed in any Schedule of the Act. It has repeatedly been brought to our notice that some schools with CBSE affiliation still possess some of the prohibited exhibits.

This matter is to be taken very seriously. No school will keep any exhibits of animals/plants listed under the act. These include pitcher plant, corals, frogs, snakes, birds, reptiles or any parts of them including skeletons, bones, foetus, feathers and skins. The CBSE Regional Officers may also inspect schools. Any school with specimens that are illegal will be open to legal action by appropriate authorities under the WLP Act 1972 which is non bailable. For a list of plants/animals prohibited under the Wildlife Protection Act, please refer to the website http://www.envfor.nic.in/legis/wildlife/wildlife1/html. This list of plants/animals included in Schedule I to Schedule VI in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is also attached hereby as an annexure. The schools are advised not to use threatened plants or animals (such as corals, shark, frog and starfish) for teaching. Instead virtual images or models may be used.

It has also been brought to our notice that some CBSE affiliated schools are keeping live/captive animals as exhibits for the children. According to the Central Zoo Authority, no animals can be kept for exhibition as this will amount to the schools being a zoo and this is not allowed without CZA permission.

It is once again brought to your notice that all the live animals kept specifically for exhibition for the children need to be immediately removed. The prohibited animals include guinea pigs, rabbits, ducks, hamsters and white mice.
As suggested in the earlier circular, ICT techniques and other alternative teaching / learning aids such as models, photographs and videos may be used for study of anatomy/morphology of all such species.

At the same time, it is to be recognized that schools require specimens of plants and animals representing various groups of diversity to serve as study material for Biology students. For this purpose, specimens of common plants and animals may be utilized, taking care that no specimens of threatened species listed under the WLP Act are kept or displayed in the school.

This may be treated as most urgent and be brought to the notice of all concerned.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Kshipra Verma
Education Officer

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates/KVS/NVS/CTSA as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

3. The General Secretary, Council of Boards of School Education in India 6H, Bigjo’s Tower, A-8, Netaji Subhash Place, Ring Road, Delhi-110 034.
4. The Secretary, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESS ESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi – 110 085.
5. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110 054.
6. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh- 160 017.
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737 101.
8. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar- 791 111.
11. All the Regional Officers of CBSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the schools affiliated with the Board in their respective regions and also ensure its compliance.
12. The Director of Education Officers/AEOs of the Academic Branch, CBSE
13. The Research Officer (Technology) with the request to publish this circular on the CBSE website.
14. The Library and Information Officer, CBSE
15. EO to Chairman, CBSE
16. PS to Chairman, CBSE
17. SO to CE, CBSE
18. PA to Secretary, CBSE
19. PA to Director (ACAD.)
20. PA to Director (Training)
21. PA to Director (AIEEE)
22. PRO, CBSE

Kshipra Verma
Education Officer